

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for customizing a schedule display for project management, comprising:

a medium suitable for recording data in graphical form as a CHART;

means for providing a calculated estimated time for completion of a SET of tasks with a plurality of intervals during execution of a project;

a chart template on said medium for plotting, according to said estimated time, an estimated time for completion for said SET against the date for estimation, taking into account a starting date for said SET and said plurality of intervals;

providing on said chart template for said SET a target line extending between the starting date and an estimated time of completion of said project;

further providing on said chart template for said SET a plurality of checkpoint numbers at said plurality of intervals for receiving an ordered pair of checkpoint dates and estimated completion;

creating indicia different from said dotted line for the SET at a distance above or below said dotted line corresponding to the deviation from said target of estimated time of

completion and target for completion, thus graphically illustrating progress of said SET toward said task completion at each of said plurality of check point numbers.

2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further including a programmable data processing means with a computational capability for performing a set of steps for creating said chart and/or projecting said chart.

3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further including means for modifying said target date for completion

4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further including means adapting said CHART to accommodate project changes in scope.

5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said CHART is provided on a computer readable medium.

6. A method for displaying performance against a schedule, comprising the steps of:

periodically determining time to completion for a SET of tasks during duration of project execution;

providing a new point on a CHART of estimated time to completion against time for each periodic determination; and

connecting said points by a line on said CHART until said line intersects said time axis indicating completion of said task.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6, further including the steps of:

determining a plurality of tasks to complete a project to define a SET;

determining scheduled start and completion dates for each task of said SET;

determining period checkpoints for reviewing progress of said task ;

providing a two-dimensional chart plotting said start and completion dates with a target line, and dividing said time into segments for said periodic checkpoints, and

at each checkpoint, providing a ordered pair of data demonstrating status of completion to estimated time to completion, and respectively connecting said ordered pairs for comparing progress with a target line.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7, further including the step of:

adapting said chart to accommodate change of scope for said SET.

9. The method as set forth in claim 7, further including the steps of:

redefining said task to create a new target line for completion of the modified task,
and then again redefining said task to create a new target line for said again redefined task.

10. The method as set forth in claims 1 to 9, wherein said steps are performed by a
programmed general purpose computer.

11. The method as set forth in claims 1 to 9, wherein said steps are embedded in a
programmable medium.

- 1 1. A user scheduling apparatus for project management, comprising:
2 a database that stores a project schedule, the project schedule containing at
3 least one project task;
4 an input device that receives user input data, said user input data related at
5 least to a time to complete status of the at least one project task;
6 an estimator that determines an estimated time of completion of the at least
7 one project task;
8 a project schedule modifier that generates an estimated time of completion
9 schedule;
10 a display apparatus that displays the project schedule and the estimated time
11 of completion schedule simultaneously.
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- 13 2. The scheduling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the estimated time of
14 completion schedule and the project schedule are combined into a revised project
15 schedule.
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- 17 3. The scheduling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the estimator is at least one of a
18 suspended time estimator and a change of scope estimator.
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- 20 4. A computer program that customizes a project schedule, comprising the steps
21 of:
22 retrieving from a database a project schedule, the project schedule containing
23 at least one project task;
24 receiving from an input device user input data, said user input data related at
25 least to a time to complete status of the at least one project task;
26 determining an estimated time of completion of the at least one project task
27 based on the user input updates;
28 generating an estimated time of completion schedule based on the project
29 schedule and the estimated time of completion; and
30 displaying on a display apparatus the project schedule and the estimated time

1 of completion schedule simultaneously.

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3 5. The computer program of claim 4, further comprising the step of combining
4 the estimated time of completion schedule and the project schedule into a revised
5 project schedule.

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7 6. The computer program of claim 4, wherein the estimated time of completion is
8 determined by at least one of a suspended time estimator and a change of scope
9 estimator.

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11 7. A project scheduling method for scheduling a project, comprising the steps of:
12 retrieving from a database a project schedule, the project schedule containing
13 at least one project task;
14 receiving from an input device user input data, said user input data related at
15 least to a time to complete status of the at least one project task;
16 determining an estimated time of completion of the at least one project task
17 based on the user input updates;
18 generating an estimated time of completion schedule based on the project
19 schedule and the estimated time of completion; and
20 displaying on a display apparatus the project schedule and the estimated time
21 of completion schedule simultaneously.

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23 8. The project scheduling method of claim 7, further comprising the step of
24 combining the estimated time of completion schedule and the project schedule into a
25 revised project schedule.

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27 9. The project scheduling method of claim 7, wherein the estimated time of
28 completion is determined by at least one of a suspended time estimator and a
29 change of scope estimator.